

The embodiments of the invention in which an exclusive property or privilege is claimed are defined as follows:

1. A method of collecting address-correlated images of objects at geographic locations, comprising:

mounting on a vehicle at least one camera and a GPS receiver, wherein the camera and the GPS receiver receive time information from a synchronized clock;

capturing images of objects at geographic locations with the camera and recording geographic locations as determined by the GPS receiver, wherein each image and each determination of geographic location is time-stamped by the clock;

associating each image with a geographic location based on corresponding respective time-stamps; and

correlating each image with an address based on each image's associated geographic location.

2. The method of Claim 1, wherein the images of objects are captured using a digital video camera.

3. The method of Claim 1, wherein the images of objects are captured using a digital still camera.

4. The method of Claim 1, wherein multiple cameras are mounted on the vehicle for capturing images in different directions.

5. The method of Claim 4, wherein two cameras are mounted on the vehicle for capturing images in opposite directions.

6. The method of Claim 1, further comprising mounting a range finder on the vehicle and recording a distance to an object being imaged by the camera, the range finder receiving time information from a synchronized clock, wherein each recorded distance is time-stamped by the clock and used in associating an image of an object with a geographic location.

7. A method of collecting address-correlated images of objects at geographic locations, comprising:

mounting on a vehicle at least one camera and a GPS receiver;

capturing images of objects at geographic locations with the camera and recording geographic locations as determined by the GPS receiver, wherein the geographic location as determined by the GPS receiver is embedded onto a corresponding image captured at the geographic location by the camera, so as to produce images each associated with a geographic location; and

correlating each image with an address based on each image's associated geographic location.

8. The method of Claim 7, wherein the images of objects are captured using a digital video camera.

9. A method of preparing images of objects at geographic locations for use in an online directory, comprising:

(a) receiving images of objects, wherein each image is associated with a geographic location;

(b) correlating each image with a street address based on each image's associated geographic location; and

(c) providing an image for display with a listing in an online directory based on a street address in the listing.

10. The method of Claim 9, wherein correlating each image with a street address comprises using an algorithm comprising a series of logics to calculate street addresses based on geographic locations.

11. The method of Claim 9, wherein correlating each image with a street address comprises using the image's geographic location to refer to a lookup table that correlates street addresses with geographic locations.

12. The method of Claim 9, wherein receiving images of objects further comprises:

- (i) receiving time-stamped images captured by a camera;
- (ii) receiving time-stamped geographic locations as determined by a GPS receiver that is located with the camera; and
- (iii) associating each image with a geographic location based on corresponding respective time-stamps.

13. The method of Claim 12, further comprising receiving time-stamped distance information as determined by a range finder located with the camera and GPS receiver for measuring a distance to an object being imaged by the camera, wherein the received distance information is used in associating each image with a geographic location.

14. The method of Claim 12, wherein the time-stamped images are captured using a digital video camera.

15. The method of Claim 12, wherein the time-stamped images are captured using a digital still camera.

16. A computer-readable medium having computer-readable instructions that, when executed by a processor, result in performing the method of Claim 9.

17. The method of Claim 9, further comprising receiving an image of an object not associated with a geographic location and calculating the geographic location of the image based on interpolation.  
18. The method of Claim 9, wherein receiving images of objects comprises selectively receiving only a subset of an entire set of images captured by a camera so as to minimize gaps and overlaps.

19. A computer system for preparing images of objects at geographic locations for use in an online directory, comprising:

(a) an input/output interface that receives images, each image being associated with a geographic location;

(b) a memory with information that correlates street addresses with geographic locations; and

(c) a processor coupled to the input/output interface and the memory, the processor being configured to execute computer instructions that cause the processor to:

(i) correlate each image received via the input/output interface with a street address by referring to the information stored in the memory; and

(ii) provide each image for display with a listing in an online directory based on a street address in the listing.

20. The computer system of Claim 19, wherein the information in the memory comprises an algorithm comprising a series of logics to calculate street addresses based on geographic locations.

21. The computer system of Claim 19, wherein the information in the memory comprises a lookup table that correlates street addresses with geographic locations.

22. The computer system of Claim 19, wherein the input/output interface further receives some images not associated with geographic locations, and the processor is configured to calculate the geographic locations of those images based on interpolation.

23. The computer system of Claim 19, wherein the input/output interface selectively receives only a subset of an entire set of images captured by a camera so as to minimize gaps and overlaps.

24. A server system in communication with a client system for supporting an online directory, wherein multiple images of objects respectively taken at multiple geographic locations are stored in association with their geographic locations, the server system being configured with subsystems that:

- (a) receive from a client system a request for a listing;
- (b) display on the client system the requested listing, wherein the listing is associated with an address;
- (c) identify one or more images corresponding to said address by matching the geographic location of said address with the geographic locations of images;
- (d) display on the client system the one or more images identified in step (c) above;

(e) prompt a user to select the listing appearing in the one or more images; and

(f) store the user's selection in correlation with the listing.

25. The server system of Claim 24, wherein the user selects the listing by clicking on the listing in the one or more images.

26. A server system in communication with a client system for supporting an online directory, wherein multiple images of objects respectively taken at multiple geographic locations are stored in association with their geographic locations, the server system being configured with subsystems that:

(a) receive from a client system a request for a listing;

(b) display on the client system the requested listing, wherein the listing is associated with an address;

(c) identify one or more images corresponding to said address by matching the geographic location of said address with the geographic locations of images;

(d) display on the client system the one or more images identified in step (c) above;

(e) prompt a user to indicate whether the one or more images are useful or not; and

(f) store the user's indication.